

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Hirofumi ONISHI, et al.

SERIAL NO: NEW APPLICATION

GAU:

FILED: HEREWITH

EXAMINER:

FOR: TANDEM FRICTIONAL ENGAGEMENT DEVICE AND AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION MOUNTED  
THEREWITH

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

**REFERENCES**

- The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references.
- A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

**RELATED CASES**

- Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. A copy of the patent(s), together with a copy of the claims and drawings of the pending application(s) is attached along with PTO 1449.
- A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

**CERTIFICATION**

- Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT**

- Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check or credit card payment is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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**STATEMENT OF RELEVANCY**

**Reference AO(8-61393) on Form PTO-1449:**

In an automatic transmission, first and second coupling members are constructed as a common coupling member, and first and second stopper members are constructed as a common snap ring. However, if the snap ring is fitted in a straight groove formed in the common coupling member, for example, a predetermined gap (looseness) is inevitably created between the straight groove and the snap ring. Therefore, it is difficult to manage a piston stroke of adjacent ones of frictional engagement units, and to finely control an engagement torque during a gear shift with high precision.

Form PTO 1449 (Modified)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 250238US3		SERIAL NO. NEW APPLICATION	
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT		APPLICANT					
		Hirofumi ONISHI, et al.					
		FILING DATE HEREWITH		GROUP			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						
	AL						
	AM						
	AN						
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	TRANSLATION		
	AO	8-61393	03/08/96	Japan (with English Abstract)	YES		X
	AP						
	AQ						
	AR						
	AS						
	AT						
	AU						
	AV						
OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
	AW						
	AX						
	AY						
	AZ					<input type="checkbox"/> Additional References sheet(s) attached	
Examiner					Date Considered		
*Examiner: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							